

Canberra Times (ACT : 1926 - 1995), Monday 30 May 1994, page 4

Cannonball condemned

DARWIN: As the Northern Territory election campaign enters its final week, a leading public health body has condemned the NT Government for allowing last week's Cannonball Run to take place.

The NT branch of the Australian Public Health Association said the event, in which four people died, had been "an irresponsible exposure of the NT public to unnecessary risk" and should never be run again.

Branch president John Boffa said a culture of high-speed driving meant the NT had the nation's highest road fatality and hospitalisation rates.

"A responsible government would never have allowed the Cannonball Run to go ahead," he said. "The Government's endorsement of the run is a clear abdication of its public health responsibilities."

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